

CLAIMS

1 1. In a television system with at least one category assigned to at least one channel, a terminal
2 for causing the display of program guide related information, the terminal comprising:
3 a memory for storing the program guide related information, the program guide related
4 information including channel information related to the assignment of the at least one category to the
5 at least one channel; and
6 a processor, coupled to the memory, for causing the display of the program guide related
7 information.

1 2. The terminal of claim 1, wherein the processor causes the display in a browse banner of at
2 least a portion of the program guide related information of the at least one channel based on the
3 channel information.

1 3. The terminal of claim 2, wherein causing the display of the browse banner is a single
2 machine state that the processor can enter as a single change of state from a machine state of viewing
3 full screen video.

1 4. The terminal of claim 2, wherein causing the display of the browse banner is a single
2 machine state that the processor can enter as a single change of state from a machine state of viewing
3 a full screen display of the program guide related information.

1 5. The terminal of claim 2, wherein the processor causes the display of a category banner
2 indicating the at least one category assigned to the at least one channel.

1 6. The terminal of claim 5, wherein there are at least two categories and the display of the
2 category banner includes a display of a list of at least a portion of the at least two categories.

1 7. The terminal of claim 5, wherein causing the display of the category banner is a single
2 machine state that the processor can enter as a single change of state from a machine state of viewing
3 the browse banner.

1 8. The terminal of claim 2, wherein the displayed browse banner includes a graphical
2 representation of navigation keys used on a user input device to browse the program information
3 displayed on the browse banner.

1 9. The terminal of claim 1, wherein the processor blocks channel tuning to the at least one
2 channel based on the assigned at least one category.

1 10. The terminal of claim 1, wherein the processor prevents the display of program guide related
2 information associated with the at least one channel based on the assigned at least one category.

1 11. The terminal of claim 1, wherein the processor restricts channel tuning to only the at least
2 one channel based on the assigned at least one category.

1 12. The terminal of claim 11, wherein the at least one channel is a plurality of channels to which
2 the at least one category has been assigned and the processor causes the channel tuning to only the
3 plurality of channels to which the at least one category has been assigned based on an order of the
4 plurality of channels determined by at least one of an alpha-numeric listing of the plurality of
5 channels, a user sorted listing of the pluralities of channels, and an alpha-numeric listing of current
6 program titles associated with each of the plurality of channels.

1 13. The terminal of claim 1, wherein the at least one category is one of a plurality of categories
2 and the at least one channel is one of a plurality of channels, and the processor restricts tuning to at
3 least a portion of the plurality of channels to which at least one category of the plurality of categories
4 is assigned and the plurality of channels to which at least one category is assigned are tuned in order
5 associated with the plurality of categories.

1 14. The terminal of claim 13, wherein the order of tuning the plurality of channels to which at
2 least one category is assigned is further sorted by at least one of an alpha-numeric listing of at least a
3 portion of the pluralities of the categories, a user sorted listing of at least a portion of the pluralities of
4 categories, a listing of at least a portion of the categories assigned to the most recently viewed
5 channels, and a listing of at least a portion of the most recently selected categories.

1 15. The terminal of claim 1, wherein the processor restricts causing the display of program guide
2 related information to only at least a portion of the program guide related information of the at least
3 one channel based on the assigned at least one category.

1 16. The terminal of claim 15, wherein the at least one channel is a plurality of channels to which
2 the at least one category has been assigned and the processor causes the display of program guide
3 related information to only at least a portion of the program guide related information of the plurality
4 of channels to which the at least one category has been assigned based on an order of the plurality of
5 channels determined by at least one of an alpha-numeric listing of the plurality of channels, a user
6 sorted listing of the pluralities of channels, and an alpha-numeric listing of current program titles
7 associated with each of the plurality of channels.

1 17. The terminal of claim 1, wherein the at least one category is one of a plurality of categories
2 and the at least one channel is one of a plurality of channels and the processor restricts causing the
3 display of program guide related information to only at least a portion of the program guide related
4 information of a portion of the plurality of channels to which at least one category of the plurality of
5 categories is assigned and the display of program guide related information is sorted by the plurality
6 of categories.

1 18. The terminal of claim 17, wherein the display of program guide related information is further
2 sorted by at least one of an alpha-numeric listing of at least a portion of the pluralities of the
3 categories, a user sorted listing of at least a portion of the pluralities of categories, a listing of at least
4 a portion of the categories assigned to the most recently viewed channels, and a listing of at least a
5 portion of the most recently selected categories.

1 19. The terminal of claim 1, wherein the channel information indicates at least two categories
2 assigned to the at least one channel.

1 20. In a television system with a plurality of channels, a terminal for causing a display of
2 program guide related information, the program guide related information including channel
3 information, the terminal comprising:
4 a memory for storing the program guide related information, including the channel
5 information that indicates at least one category of a plurality of categories is assigned to at least one
6 channel of the plurality of channels; and
7 a processor, coupled to the memory, for causing the display of at least a portion of the
8 program guide related information for only the at least one channel of the plurality of channels based
9 on the channel information.

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1 22. In a subscriber television system, a terminal for causing the display of video, a full screen
2 display of program guide related information, and of a browse banner of program guide related
3 information, the terminal comprising:
4 a memory for storing the program guide related information; and
5 a processor, coupled to the memory, for causing the display of the program guide related
6 information, the causing of the display of the browse banner in conjunction with the video is a single
7 machine state that the processor can enter as a single change of state from a machine state of viewing
8 the full screen display of program guide related information.

1 23. In a subscriber television system with a plurality of channels, a method of assigning a
2 category to at least one channel of the plurality of channels, the method comprising the steps of:
3 displaying at least a portion of the plurality of channels;
4 selecting a channel from the displayed portion of the plurality of channels; and
5 assigning the category to the channel.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein there are a plurality of categories and the step of assigning
2 the category to the channel comprises the steps of:
3 assigning a particular bit location within a binary number to each of the plurality of
4 categories;
5 assigning at least one category to the channel;
6 creating the binary number for the channel, the binary number including a bit at each
7 particular bit location for each of the categories assigned to the channel; and
8 creating a table associating the binary number to the channel, the binary number associating
9 the at least one category to the channel.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of creating the table occurs in a headend of the
2 subscriber television system, and further comprising the step of transmitting the table from the
3 headend to a subscriber terminal in the subscriber television system for use at the subscriber terminal
4 in determining the at least one category assigned to the channel.

1 26. The method of claim 24, further including the steps of:
2 selecting at least one of the categories assigned to the channel;
3 deleting the selected category's association to the channel by removing the bit at the
4 particular bit location associated with the at least one category in the binary number associated with
5 the channel to create a new binary number associated with the channel; and
6 updating the table with the new binary number associated with the channel.

1 27. The method of claim 24, further including the steps of:
2 selecting an additional category from the plurality of categories;
3 assigning the additional category to the channel by adding the bit at the particular bit location
4 associated with the at least one category in the binary number associated with the channel to create a
5 new binary number associated with the channel; and
6 updating the table with the new binary number associated with the channel.

1 28. The method of claim 24, further including the step of:
2 searching a database of program records, wherein the searching is restricted by the table to
3 program records associated with the channel to which the at least one category is assigned.

1 29. The method of claim 24, further including the step of:
2 searching a database of program records, wherein the at least one category is assigned to
3 each channel of a subset of channels of the plurality of channels and the searching is restricted based
4 on the table to the subset of channels to which the category is assigned.

1 30. The method of claim 23, further including the steps of:
2 selecting the category assigned to the channel; and
3 deleting the selected category's assignment to the channel.

1 31. The method of claim 23, wherein there are a plurality of categories and further including the
2 steps of:
3 selecting an additional category from the plurality of categories; and
4 assigning the additional category to the channel.

1 32. The method of claim 23, wherein the category has an associated title and further including
2 the steps of:
3 creating a new title for the category; and
4 assigning the new title to the category to replace the associated title.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the step of receiving the user input includes receiving user input from any of a group of user input devices including a remote control, a keyboard, a data card, and a personal computer.

1 35. In a subscriber television system, a method for a user to assign a category to a channel, the
2 method comprising the steps of:
3 displaying at least a portion of channel information related to the channel and a listing of at
4 least one category;
5 receiving user input, associated with the user, indicating the category from the listing to be
6 assigned to the channel; and
7 assigning the category to the channel, in the channel information, responsive to the user
8 input.

1 36. In a subscriber television system with at least one category, a method for a user to rename a
2 category, wherein the category is assigned to a channel, the method comprising the steps of:
3 displaying a listing of the at least one category, including the category;
4 receiving a first user input, associated with the user, indicating the category from the listing
5 to be renamed;
6 receiving a second user input, associated with the user, indicating a new name for the
7 category indicated by the first user input;
8 renaming the category responsive to the second user input; and
9 updating the assignment of the category to the channel with the category's new name.

1 38. In a subscriber television system with a plurality of channels, a method of assigning a
2 parameter to at least one channel of the plurality of channels, the method comprising the steps of:
3 displaying at least a portion of the plurality of channels;
4 selecting a channel from the displayed portion of the plurality of channels; and
5 assigning the parameter to the channel.

1 39. In a subscriber television system with a plurality of channels, with a plurality of program
2 records associated with programming for each of the plurality of channels, a plurality of content
3 categories assigned to at least a portion of the plurality of program records, and a plurality of channel
4 categories assigned to at least a first portion of the plurality of channels, a method of using at least one
5 of the plurality of channel categories to restrict a search of the plurality of program records for at least
6 one content category to a portion of the plurality program records associated with a second portion of
7 the plurality of channels to which the at least one channel category is assigned, the second portion of
8 the plurality of channels being a subset of the first portion of the plurality of channels, the method
9 comprising the steps of:

10 organizing the plurality of program records based on the associated plurality of channels;
11 designating the at least one content category, responsive to a user input, to be searched for in
12 the plurality of program records;

13 associating at least one of the plurality of channel categories to the at least one content
14 category;

15 using the at least one of the plurality of channel categories to restrict the searching of the
16 plurality of program records for the at least one content category to the portion of the program records
17 associated with the second portion of the plurality of channels to which the at least one channel
18 category is assigned; and

19 searching the portion of the program records associated with the second portion of the
20 plurality of channels to which the at least one channel category is assigned for program records
21 associated with the at least one content category.

1 40. In a subscriber television system with a plurality of channels and a channel category
2 assigned to at least a portion of the plurality of channels, a method of restricting the display of the
3 plurality of channels to the portion of the plurality of channels to which the channel category is
4 assigned, the method comprising the steps of:
5 designating that the channel category, responsive to a user input, is to be used to restrict the
6 display of the channels to only the portion of the channels to which the channel category is assigned;
7 and
8 displaying only the portion of the channels to which the channel category is assigned.

1 41. In a subscriber television system with a plurality of channels, a plurality of program
2 information associated with the programming for the plurality of channels, and a channel category
3 assigned to at least a portion of the plurality of channels, a method of restricting the display of the
4 plurality of program information to a portion of the plurality of program information associated with
5 the portion of the plurality of channels to which the channel category is assigned, the method
6 comprising the steps of:
7 designating that the channel category, responsive to a user input, is to be used to restrict the
8 display of the plurality of program information to the portion of the plurality of program information
9 associated with the portion of the plurality of channels to which the channel category is assigned; and
10 displaying only the portion of the plurality of program information associated with the
11 portion of the channels to which the channel category is assigned.